

23 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Some Books on CIA

Books on CIA come in all sizes and shapes and shades of opinion. There are very few which could be labeled either pro-CIA or objective. Most of them are anti-Agency, particularly as regards CIA's covert action operations. There are virtually no foreign books on CIA which are favorable to the Agency. An objective study of CIA cannot be written without considering many of the magazine and feature newspaper articles which have appeared. Some of these represent the Agency and its work in a favorable light, but the bulk of them are critical.

Some comments on specific books follow:

1. ALSOP, Stewart. The Center: People and Power in Political Washington (New York: Harper & Row, 1968).

This book contains a section on CIA. While it is apparent that Alsop's views are basically pro-CIA, his chapter contains errors in fact which are only visible to the "insider." The fact that he is trying to be helpful does not alter the existence of these errors.

2. CAMPBELL, John Franklin. The Foreign Affairs Fudge Factory (New York: Basic Books, 1971).

The section on CIA in this book is typical of many written from the point of view of the State Department which basically urges the supremacy of State in the intelligence field. The major pitch is the diminution (if not the elimination) of CIA. Similar theses are set forth in Roger Hilsman's To Move a Nation (New York: Doubleday, 1967); John P. Leacacos' Fire in the In-Basket (Cleveland: World Publishing Company, 1968); and Charles Yost's The Conduct and Misconduct of Foreign Affairs (New York: Random House, 1972).

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3. DE GRAMONT, Sanche. The Secret War: The Story of International Espionage Since World War II (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1962).

DeGramont, now a free-lance journalist, includes several chapters on CIA activities. The book does not, on balance, do the Agency any favors.

4. DEMOCRATIC PARTY. NATIONAL COMMITTEE, 1968-1972. Surveillance and Espionage in a Free Society: A Report by the Planning Group on Intelligence and Security to the Policy Council of the Democratic National Committee, edited by Richard H. Blum (New York: Praeger, 1972).

This book comprises a series of essays, a large number of which deal with U.S. foreign intelligence activities. Basically, all of the essays on foreign intelligence are hostile to CIA, especially its activities in the covert action field, with the exception of the essay by Dr. Ithiel de Sola Pool. Among the authors are Hilsman, Harry Howe Ransom, and Harold L. Wilensky.

5. DULLES, Allen W. The Craft of Intelligence (New York: Harper & Row, 1963).

This is the classic book on the Agency. The paperback edition (New York: New American Library, 1965) contains some additional material.

6. FELIX, Christopher, pseud. A Short Course in the Secret War (New York: Dutton, 1963).

The first half of this book is an excellent exposition of clandestine and covert operations. The second half, which describes some of the author's own alleged experiences in intelligence, particularly at the time of the Hungarian Revolution, need not be read.

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7. JEFFERS, H. Paul. The CIA: A Close Look at the Central Intelligence Agency (New York: Lion Press, 1970).

This book is aimed basically at the post-juvenile through senior high school audience. The first half of the book is not too bad. Unfortunately, the author has had to pad the book out with some of the wilder accusations against the CIA which have appeared in the press.

8. JOHNSON, Haynes B. The Bay of Pigs: The Leaders' Story of Brigade 2506 (New York: Norton, 1964).

This book, by a Washington newsman in cooperation with the four leaders of the Brigade, is written from the viewpoint of the Brigade. Nevertheless, despite some bias, it is a fairly well-balanced account of the events from their viewpoint. In this connection, one should also read Albert C. Persons' Bay of Pigs (Birmingham, Alabama: The Kingston Press, 1968). Persons was the recruiter and leader of the pilots in support of the Bay of Pigs operation.

9. KENT, Sherman. Strategic Intelligence for American World Policy (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1949, 1966).

This book is the classic on intelligence production and theory. Unfortunately, it is somewhat out of date. The 1966 edition has a new and lengthy preface by Dr. Kent.

10. KIRKPATRICK, Lyman B. The Real CIA (New York: Macmillan, 1968).

This book is written from the author's own point of view as a former senior Agency official and is, to some extent, controversial. Nevertheless, it is an important pro-Agency book. Another pro-Agency book by the same author is entitled The U.S. Intelligence Community (New York: Hill & Wang, 1973). It is scheduled for publication in the late summer.

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11. MC GARVEY, Patrick J. CIA: The Myth and The Madness (New York: Saturday Review Press, 1972).

This highly critical book of CIA activities was written by a former CIA junior employee who subsequently was employed by DIA. McGarvey's lack of real knowledge of Agency activities, and his basic desire to capitalize on what he feels is the public desire for anti-CIA writing, results in a hodgepodge of bias and general inaccuracy.

12. POWERS, Francis Gary. Operation Overflight: The U-2 Spy Pilot Tells His Story for the First Time (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970).

This is Power's own story of his career as a U-2 pilot, his ill-fated flight over Russia, and his subsequent trial, imprisonment and release. For a further detailed study of Power's exchange for Colonel Abel, see: Strangers on a Bridge by James B. Donovan (New York: Atheneum, 1964), as well as various Russian-originated transcripts of his trial.

13. RANSOM, Harry Howe. Central Intelligence and National Security (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1958).

This book is a fairly well-balanced account of its subject. The updated version, The Intelligence Establishment (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970) is neither as accurate or as useful. In his later writings, Ransom has attempted to delve into the field of clandestine and technological intelligence, with poor results due to his lack of hard information.

14. STAVINS, Ralph, Richard J. Barnet and Marcus G. Raskin. Washington Plans an Aggressive War (New York: Random House, 1971).

The authors are members of a radical activist left, Washington "think-tank."

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This book is a discussion of U.S. involvement in the Vietnamese War, in part a rehash of material contained in the Pentagon Papers. It includes many quotations from CIA estimates, utilized selectively to support the author's point of view. Its tone is anti-CIA. It can be read in conjunction with many other books, mostly hostile, on CIA's role in the war in Indochina.

15. STRONG, Major General Sir Kenneth W.D. Men of Intelligence: A Study of the Roles and Decisions of Chiefs of Intelligence From World War I to the Present Day (London: Cassell, 1970).

This book includes brief studies of General Walter Bedell Smith, Allen Dulles and John A. McCone as Directors of Central Intelligence.

16. TULLY, Andrew. CIA: The Inside Story (New York: Morrow, 1962).

Based largely on secondary sources, this book is a compendium of truths, half truths, and inaccuracies. It is distinctly anti-CIA.

17. WISE, David and Thomas B. Ross. The Invisible Government (New York: Random House, 1964).

This anti-CIA book contains countless errors in fact, as the author's attempt to prove that CIA is really the invisible government of the U.S. It is obvious that they have talked to many people, both in and out of government, who have axes to grind and who attempt to put the Agency in the worst possible light. Equally poor are the author's other books on intelligence subjects, The Espionage Establishment (New York: Random House, 1967) and The U-2 Affair (New York: Random House, 1962).

18. ZLOTNICK, Jack. National Intelligence (Washington: Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 1960, 1964).

This book by a former CIA analyst is a useful introduction to intelligence and intelligence organization, although somewhat dated.

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This checklist represents a broad cut of the more important books. By and large, it does not include the literature on such specialized topics as the accusations that CIA is involved in the drug traffic, the Green Beret case, the assassination of President Kennedy, or voluminous writings on various aspects of the Indochina War. It does not go in any depth into the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, or the writings about CIA involvement with the National Student Association and other foundations in the educational, labor and other fields.